Grandview Update May 2014

Former Public Works site redevelopment – The City Council recently discussed the method to move forward with potential redevelopment of the former Public Works site at 5146 Eden Ave. This site has been vacant since Edina's Public Works Department moved to a new site in 2010.

The City Council convened the Community Advisory Team (CAT) in summer 2013 and asked that the CAT prepare a Request for Interest (RFI) to find a prospective development partner for the site. The Council agreed to this method after considering a variety of options in spring 2013. After several months of study, the Grandview CAT submitted two different versions of a Request for Interest (RFI) for the Council's consideration. One document called for a Development Consultant; the other for a Development Partner. These proposals were complemented by recently completed studies including: Community Facility Inventory, resident survey and infrastructure capacity reports. This new information supplements the data collected and compiled in the 2012 Development Framework.

Although the majority of CAT members supported an RFI to hire a Development Consultant, the majority of City Council members continue to support issuing an RFI to select a potential Development Partner. The Council members are not in complete agreement about the method to move forward. The majority, however, directed City Staff to complete the RFI for Development Partner initiated by the CAT and deliver it for final Council consideration in June. Staff anticipates that this will be on the City Council's June 17 agenda.

Highway 100 Lid Concept – Tom Fischer and Mic Johnson of the University of Minnesota College of Design summarized the proposal to cover a portion of Highway 35W near Downtown East in Minneapolis. This concept potentially turns the unused airspace above a highway into a neighborhood amenity. The designers suggested that a similar concept could be implemented in Grandview to unify the properties on the east and west sides of Highway 100.

A similar concept was discussed when the original Grandview CAT was convened in 2010. Due to the complexity of the idea, it was not pursued beyond the concept phase.

The U of M researchers note that the concept has matured in recent years as it has been successfully implemented in other cities like Seattle, San Diego and Houston. A similar concept was successfully built in Minneapolis as part of the Hiawatha light rail construction near Minnehaha Parkway.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Highway 100/Grandview interchange is one of only a few in the Twin Cities where this concept would physically work and where market demand could exist to make it financially viable. The U of MN concept can be found here:

 $www.EdinaMN.gov/edinafiles/files/City_Offices/Community_Development/Planning/Grandview_District_Update/U\%20of\%20MN\%20Grandview\%20Lid\%20Concept\%205-20-2014\%20lo-res\%20.pdf.$

Bus Garage Site – The Board of School District 273 has been discussing conditions necessary to relocate the bus operations from Eden Ave. At the May 5 and 19 Board meetings, they discussed possible terms of relocation. At this time, no final policy has been affirmed. SD 273 Board notes can be found here: http://www.edinaschools.org/Page/116